

## CARLISLE KNOCKED OUT.

The Administration Currency Bill Withdrawn.

The Cuckoos Are Not Numerous Enough in the House to Pass the Banker's Bill.

Congress adjourned last Saturday afternoon until January 3, but before an adjournment was had it was found that the bill which was drafted by Secretary Carlisle, known as the Carlisle currency bill, could not be passed and the bill was withdrawn and a substitute introduced in its place. The substitute is based on the Carlisle plan but it is radically different from that bill in some particulars. Two very important features make their appearance for the first time in the substitute. The main one will have the effect of allowing the national banking system to run along without any arbitrary provision that banks must organize under the new system.

The original Carlisle bill contemplated that all national banks must reorganize under the new plan. This would have required them to surrender the new government bonds which now constitute the basis of their circulation. But the substitute does away with this imperative change. If national banks wish to continue to hold their United States bonds and issue circulation thereon, they may do so.

The other important feature of the substitute is that it does away with the unknown liability of banks to guarantee the notes of all other banks. This feature of the original bill has been much criticized. It contemplated that if a national bank failed, its notes would be paid out of its assets and the "general safety fund" made up by all the banks. But if the assets and safety fund were insufficient to pay the notes of the failed bank, then the comptroller of the currency was to make a pro rata assessment on all the banks of the country. The banks said this prospective assessment shouldered them with an unknown risk. In effect it made them supply insurance on all the notes of banks in which they had no concern.

In view of these criticisms, the substitute will do away with the assessment plan. "The safety fund" will be the limit of the joint liability of all the banks for the failure of individual banks. They will, however, be compelled to keep up this safety fund by more rigid provisions than proposed in the original bill. Besides these two main changes, there are many lesser ones. As to a bond issue to retire the greenbacks, this will probably be offered as an amendment, but it is believed that the feeling against bond issues will defeat the amendment. The elimination of state

banks and the limiting of bank liability will also be presented as independent amendments.

Mr. Bland has introduced a free coinage bill and, at the proper time, will introduce a substitute to the Carlisle substitute. He has prepared a proposition which he thinks can not be ruled out of order on the point that it is not germane. That was the way in which the advocates of the Carlisle plan expected to dispose of the Missouriian if he brought forward a simple free coinage substitute or amendment. Mr. Bland has anticipated this fate for free coinage, pure and simple, and has therefore prepared a currency plan. The basis of his scheme is, of course, free coinage. But he provides for a new unit of value and a volume of notes with such provisions as will make his plan a currency system. He has put his substitute in such shape that, in his opinion, it will be a very arbitrary act on the part of the committee on rules or the speaker to shut him off without a vote. Mr. Bland will begin the fight as soon as the committee on rules reports a special order for the Carlisle bill, if he detects an intention to prevent him from getting his substitute before the house. His substitute opens by providing "that the unit of value in the United States shall be the standard dollar as now coined, consisting of 412½ grains of standard silver." The gold unit is omitted. Mr. Bland says the silver unit was the one upon which we based our coin system for a great many years, and he proposes to go back to it. If there is to be any change of ratio let it be in the gold dollar.

Mr. Bland's substitute then proceeds to establish a new currency in the following manner:

"Any holder of gold or silver bullion of the value of \$100 or more, of standard fineness, shall be entitled to have the same struck into any authorized coins of the United States, or the owner of the bullion may deposit the same at such mints and receive therefor coin notes equal in amount to the coinage value of the bullion deposited, and the bullion thereupon shall become the property of the government. That the coin notes so issued shall be in denominations not less than \$1 nor more than \$100, and shall be a legal tender in like manner and invested with the same monetary uses as the standard gold and silver coins of the United States."

Another section of Mr. Bland's substitute stops the issue of gold or silver certificates and treasury notes. It provides that these certificates and notes shall be cancelled and destroyed as fast as they come into the treasury and that coin notes shall take the place of them. The coin notes outstanding must be neither greater nor less in volume than the coin or coining value of the bullion in the treasury. Coin notes are to be re-

deemed when presented in sums of \$10 or more. Discriminations between gold and silver in the redemption is forbidden. This is made one of the strong features of the substitute. Another notable feature is the positive prohibition of the issue of bonds to get gold so long as there is either gold or silver in the treasury.

Mr. Bland is of the opinion that the country is nearer to free coinage or to coin notes based on free coinage than it has been. He thinks the trouble to maintain the gold reserve is making sentiment rapidly for a currency based on the two metals.

## MONEY FOR SCHOOLS.

An Appropriation is Needed For the Normal Schools at Silver City.

Hon. W. G. Ritch, in a letter to the Las Vegas Optic on needed legislation says: "The public school question should not be forgotten, and, at this period, I know of no one thing better calculated to promoting general education than the fostering and encouraging the normal school. The work inaugurated at Silver City, under the appropriation, insignificant as compared with other and more pretentious institutions, stands as a monument to speak for itself.

"This school, in operation only since last September, under its small faculty of two teachers (thoroughly competent, however), now numbers over sixty pupils, gathered from various portions of the territory, and who showed themselves, under the standard examination to which a high school graduate is subjected, capable of entering for the regular normal course. There are no A B C or primary pupils in this school.

"This, be it understood, is unprecedented at the founding, as compared with all other of the higher educational institutions of the territory.

An ample, two story brick edifice, splendidly located within the city limits, has been erected, and will be ready for occupancy, in the first story next February.

From present appearances, an additional teacher will be a necessity with the opening of the winter term, and then something is due to a proper equipment of the school as a well-rounded institution. Furniture and apparatus, the completion of the second story and the attic and the grading of the surroundings and approaches and fencing, come in for consideration. Every cent of the present available funds has been judiciously applied to work contracted for.

The normal school has for its object, as conceived by the last legislative assembly, the furnishing of competent teachers, trained in the best methods of teaching, and necessarily stands first in importance to the public school system. A liberal additional appropriation is due the normal school."